

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6640

USUN NEW YORK 296

USCINCSO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BOGOTA 2291

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO, UN (WALDHEIM, KURT)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REFS: BOGOTA'S 957 AND 1343

SUMMARY. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHEIM MADE A TWO AND ONE-HALF DAY VISIT TO BOGOTA DURING WHICH HE CALLED UPON PRESIDENT PASTRANA, THE FONMIN AND OTHER GOVT OFFICIALS. WHILE WALDHEIM'S VARIOUS PUBLIC UTTERANCES RARELY WENT BEYOND THE LAUDATORY STATEMENTS

AND SWEEPING GENERALITIES APPROPRIATE FOR SUCH A VISIT, PRES PASTRANA USED THE OCCASION TO REPEAT THE CRITICISM OF THE MAGNITUDE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS WHICH HE HAD MADE DURING THE IA- ECOSOC MEETING IN EARLY FEB IN BOGOTA

.
PASTRANA ALSO AGAIN CALLED FOR INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM TO ASSURE THAT THE DEVELOPING NATIONS WOULD NOT SUFFER AS THE RESULT OF MONETARY DEVALUATIONS ENGENDERED BY CRISES IN THE RICH NATIONS. END SUMMARY

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1. KURT WALDHEIM, UN SECRETARY GENERAL, VISITED BOGOTA FOR TWO AND ONE- HALF DAYS FROM MARCH 17 TO MARCH 19. HIS VISIT INCLUDED CALLS UPON THE PRES, FONMIN, AND OTHER GOVT OFFICIALS; A STATE BANQUET IN WALDHEIM' S HONOR; A VISIT TO THE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY OF JORGE TADEO LOZANO UNIVERSITY WHERE HE WAS MADE AN HONORARY MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE; AND A VISIT TO THE COLOMBIAN CONGRESS WHERE HE CALLED UPON THE PRESIDENTS OF THE SENATE AND CHAMBER. WALDHEIM WAS VERY CORDIALLY RECEIVED, AND THE PRESS ACCORDED THE VISIT EXTRAORDINARILY WIDE COVERAGE.

2. WALDHEIM SPOKE UPON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS BUT LIMITED HIMSELF TO THE USUAL DIPLOMATIC NICETIES AND GENERAL STATEMENTS IN FAVOR OF WORLD PEACE. HE MADE VARIOUS COMPLIMENTARY REFERENCES TO COLOMBIA, THE CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS AND HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE CORDIAL WELCOME HE HAD RECEIVED. WALDHEIM EMPHASIZED THE MAGNITUDE OF UN ASSISTANCE TO COLOMBIA, STATING THAT THE COMBINED VALUE OF JOINT UN- GOC PROJECTS SINCE 1950 TOTALED MORE THAN US\$57 MILLION. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE FOOD PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA REPRESENTED ONE OF THE GREATEST EFFORTS EVER UNDERTAKEN IN THE FIGHT TO OVERCOME HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. WALDHEIM ALSO DEFENDED THE UN AGAINST CRITICS AND EMPHASIZED THE FUTILITY OF UNILATERAL SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH CONFRONT THE MODERN WORLD. HE STATED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS THE NECESSITY OF REMEMBERING THAT THE PRIMARY ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS IS TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY. WALDHEIM CALLED FOR AN INTER- NATIONAL CRUSADE FOR PEACE AND SAID THAT WHERE THERE IS NO PEACE, THERE CAN BE NO PROGRESS.

3. OF GREATER INTEREST THAN WALDHEIM' S REMARKS WAS PRESIDENT PASTRANA' S SPEECH AT THE BANQUET WHICH HE TENDERED IN WALDHEIM' S HONOR. PASTRANA USED THE OCCASION TO CRITICIZE THE MAGNITUDE OF ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY THE INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND TO SPEAK IN FAVOR OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM.

4. CONCERNING THE MAGNITUDE OF ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, PASTRANA SAID THAT " THE DEVELOPING NATIONS, WHICH A DECADE AGO SPOKE A LANGUAGE OF HOPE, NOW DEBATE IN A CLIMATE OF DISILLUSIONMENT BECAUSE THE RICH NATIONS ARE MOVING FARTHER AWAY FROM ANY WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE THE ASSISTANCE

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NECESSARY TO OVERCOME MORE QUICKLY THE OBSTACLES TO THEIR DEVELOPMENT.

HE SAID THAT IT HAD NOT BEEN POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE THE NECESSARY COLLABORATION TO WORK TOWARD UNIVERSAL STABILITY OF TO REALIZE THAT ASSISTANCE IS NOT CHARITY BUT RATHER THE SAFEST INVESTMENT IN A WORLD IN CONFLICT.

5. PASTRANA REFERRED TO THE FIRST UNCTAD CONFERENCE, AT WHICH, HE SAID, THE RICH NATIONS OFFERED TO HELP THOSE COUNTRIES WITH THE LOWEST INCOMES BUT THAT THESE COUNTRIES HAVE ONLY ACHIEVED ADVANCES THROUGH THEIR OWN EFFORTS. HE CONTINUED THAT IN CONTRADICT-

ION TO THE 1 PERCENT OF DOMESTIC GROSS INCOME WHICH THE DONORS AGREED TO CONTRIBUTE, THE FLOW OF ASSISTANCE FROM THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES HAS ACTUALLY DROPPED FROM .54 PERCENT TO .35 PERCENT, AND THAT INSTEAD OF INCREASING, THE VOLUME OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE HAS REGRESSED.

6. PASTRANA EMPHASIZED THAT PEACE CANNOT ONLY BE CONCEIVED OF AS THE ABSENCE OF WAR AND IS SEVERELY COMPROMISED BY THE MISERY OF TWO- THIRDS OF THE WORLD' S POPULATION. HE SAID THAT THERE IS NOTHING MORE DANGEROUS THAN LIVING ON AN ISLAND OF PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE OF A SEA AGITATED BY POLITICAL TENSIONS. THE PRESIDENT CONTINUED THAT NOW THAT THE NOISE OF WEAPONS HAS SUBSIDED, ELIMINATION OF POVERTY MUST BE PURSUED WITH GREAT EMPHASIS AS A WORLD OBJECTIVE, AS A TRUE COOPERATIVE CRUSADE BY ALL NATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE COULD CONCEIVE OF NO NOBLER PROGRAM FOR THE UNITED NATIONS THAN THIS AND THAT NO AUTHENTIC WORLD UNITY COULD BE ACHIEVED IF EXISTING INEQUALITIES, FAR FROM BEING REDUCED, INCREASE.

7. TURNING TO THE QUESTION OF MONETARY REFORM, PASTRANA SAID THAT WITHIN A GLOBAL STRATEGY OF DEVELOPMENT MONETARY REFORM IS ESSENTIAL AND MUST INSURE THAT THE POOR COUNTRIES DO NOT HAVE TO PAY THE COSTS OF CHANGES IN MONETARY RATES RESULTING FROM THE RICH NATIONS' CRISIS. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSURING FULL PARTICIPATION TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN INTERNATIONAL FORUMS IN DECISIONS WHICH AFFECT THE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BOGOTA 2291

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CO, UN (WALDHEIM, KURT)

SUBJECT: VISIT OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

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INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM. HE SAID THAT THE INTER-
GOVERNMENTAL GROUP OF 20 WILL REAFFIRM THE OBJECTIVE WHICH
MONETARY REFORM SHOULD ACHIEVE-- MORE JUST CONDITIONS FOR WORLD
COMMERCE AND A MORE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES
IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE
DEVELOPING WORLD.

8. PASTRANA STATED THAT THE UNITED NATIONS HAD SHOWN ITSELF
TO BE THE APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR TALKS TO ACHIEVE THE OPENING
UP OF THE COMMERCIAL SYSTEM AND THE FORMULATION OF MORE DYNAMIC
MONETARY MECHANISMS.

9. HE EMPHASIZED COLOMBIA'S TRADITIONAL ESPOUSAL OF PEACEFUL
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SOLUTIONS TO INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND CONCLUDED WITH A
STATEMENT

THAT THE WORLD IS IN THE DAWN OF A NEW ORDER WHICH WILL BANISH

THE FEAR OF WAR AND INSPIRE JUSTICE AND THE HUMANIZATION OF LAW.

10. COMMENT. CONSIDERING THE HIGH LEVEL OF USG AND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED TO COLOMBIA, IT IS ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE THAT PRESIDENT PASTRANA USED A HIGHLY PUBLICIZED VISIT TO ONCE AGAIN CRITICIZE ASSISTANCE TO THE DEVELOPING WORLD AS INADEQUATE.

PASTRANS' S SPEECH AT THE WALDHEIM BANQUET ECHOES SOME OF HIS REMARKS ON THE OCCASION OF THE IA- ECOSOC MEETING IN BOGOTA WHEN HE COMPLAINED ABOUT SELF- HELP CONDITIONS OF INTERNATIONAL LOANS (BOGOTA 957 OF FEB 2, 1973). ALTHOUGH COLOMBIA HAS THE THIRD LARGEST AID PROGRAM IN THE WORLD AND THE LARGEST IBRD PROGRAM ON A PER CAPITA BASIS, PASTRANA SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT MAKING CRITICAL COMMENTS WILL QUALIFY HIM AS A SPOKESMAN FOR THE UNDER- DEVELOPED WORLD, OR, AT LEAST LATIN AMERICA. PASTRANS' S COMMENTS ON INTERNATIONAL MONETARY REFORM AND MORE JUST CONDITIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMRCE ACCURATELY REFLECT THE GOC' S CONCERN WITH THE POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF MONETARY CRISES ON THE LDC' S. PASTRANS' S REMARKS WENT CONSIDERABLY FURTHER IN STRESSING THE DANGERS OF MONETARY REVALUATIONS FOR THE LDC' S THAN MINISTER OF FINANCE LLORENTE' S BASICALLY CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE TO DOLLAR DEVALUATION (BOGOTA 1343 OF FEB 17, 1973).
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